

**In the claim:**

- 1-3 (Canceled).
4. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a phosphatase protein consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein comprising ~~the~~ an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 4;
  - (b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and
  - (c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 7.
- 5 -7 (Canceled).
8. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.
9. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell containing the vector of claim 8.
- 10 – 23. (Canceled)
24. (Previously presented) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering the peptide from the host cell culture.
25. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.
26. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 7.
27. (Previously presented) A vector according to claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, virus, and bacteriophage.